

the narrowest), broader than the superior, and slightly concave at the meeting of the two exposed sides. The inferior eye-plates are wedge-shaped. Ossicles of inferior (?) surface of disk punctate. Length of a side  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch.

This species is well distinguished from every other unmarginated form, except *rectilineus*, M'Coy, by its finely-granulated superior marginals; and from that, to which it approaches nearest, by the punctations on its inferior plates, and by its wedge-shaped inferior oculars. About the size of *uncatus*.

Chalk of Gravesend.

Both specimens are in the Collection of the London Working Men's College, Great Ormond Street.

XXXIV.—On a new genus of European Coleoptera.

By T. VERNON WOLLASTON, M.A., F.L.S.

Fam. Melyridæ.

GENUS ANTIDIPNIS.

*Corpus* minutum, ovatum, in utroque sexu (nisi fallor) apterum: *capite* antice angustato, *clypeo* brevi membranaceo; *oculis* prominentibus. *Antennæ* longe ante oculos insertæ, filiformes, distincte 11-articulatæ; articulo 1<sup>mo</sup> reliquis longiore, paulo robustiore, leviter subclavato; 2<sup>do</sup> brevi; inde ad decimum longitudine subæqualibus; 11<sup>mo</sup> ovato. *Labrum* transversum, antice truncatum, apicem versus membranaceum. *Mandibulæ* triangulares, corneæ, basi latæ, apice incurvæ acutæ, necnon (in unâ saltem) fissæ. *Maxillæ* bilobæ; *lobis* membranaceis, apice obtusis pubescentibus. *Palpi maxillares* in sexu masculino valde diversi quam in fœmineo: in *maribus* longissimi (fere articulum antennarum septimum attingentes), articulo 1<sup>mo</sup> minuto, 2<sup>do</sup> huic paulo crassiore elongato, 3<sup>tio</sup> 4<sup>to</sup>que maximis valde incrassatis (illo ovato apice truncato, superne intra apicem externum eroso, hoc inæquali subquadrato, ad apicem ipsum spongioso); in *fœminis* multo breviores (haud ultra articulum antennarum tertium extendentes), articulo 1<sup>mo</sup> minuto, 2<sup>do</sup> 3<sup>tio</sup>que huic paulo crassioribus (hoc illo vix brevior), 4<sup>to</sup> elongato (2<sup>di</sup> 3<sup>tii</sup>que conjunctim longitudine æquali), leviter crassiore, fusiformi. *Palpi labiales* in utroque sexu fusiformes; articulo 1<sup>mo</sup> parvo, 2<sup>do</sup> longiore crassiore, subclavato apice truncato, ultimo huic longitudine subæquali sed paulo tenuiore, fusiformi basi truncato. *Ligula* a me vix distincte observata. *Pedes* longiusculi, graciles, valde cursorii: *tibiis* ealcaratis, *posticis* basi leviter subcurvatis: *tarsis* elongatis filiformibus, articulo 1<sup>mo</sup> longiusculo, *anticis* in sexu masculino 4-articulatis: *unguiculis* simplicibus.

Ab ἀντι pro, et δειπνον cœna (sc. cœnæ loco).

The curious little beetle from which the above generic characters have been compiled was captured by myself, near Lisbon, on the 17th of last July, in *stercore arido humano* (a somewhat remarkable habitat for a Malachian, and one I suppose which it must

have taken to as a last resource, everything in the surrounding country being completely burnt up), on the low maritime hills above Bellem. Believing it, at the time, to constitute the type of a new genus, I have transmitted it, since my return, to Dr. Schaum of Berlin; and he agrees with me in regarding it as allied to *Colotes* of Erichson, but unquestionably distinct. It is apparently the *Colotes rubripes* of Jacquelin-Duval (published in the 10th volume of the French Annales, New Series). At any rate, it agrees exactly, except in structural details, with the insect there described; and I may add that I have received from M. Dert of Bordeaux the *selfsame species as my own*, under the name of "*Colotes rubripes*, Jac.-Duval," and, moreover, taken at La Teste beneath dry sea-weed,—thus coming from the actual locality, and captured under precisely similar circumstances, as those from which M. Duval's diagnosis was drawn out. I conclude, therefore, without the slightest hesitation, that my Lisbon insect and M. Jacquelin-Duval's are, even specifically, identical.

But, now, as regards the genus, it is quite clear—unless indeed (which is not at all likely) M. Dert's insect from La Teste was wrongly referred to the *Colotes rubripes*—that M. Duval was entirely mistaken in identifying it with *Colotes* of Erichson, from the published characters of which (*vide* 'Entomographien,' p. 129) it presents abundant and most obvious differences. If, however, M. Duval did really examine the two sexes, which he professes to have done, it is an anomaly how he could possibly have overlooked the extraordinary distinctive characters of the maxillary palpi of the males: whilst, on the other hand, if he possessed *only* the males—which I believe to be the case, for he expressly mentions the largely-developed terminal joint of those organs in the six individuals he described from (though he gives it the wrong shape, and says nothing about the penultimate one being also equally enlarged, thus forcing the insect, as it were, into Erichson's *Colotes*, at the expense of facts)—it is no less mysterious how he could have seen five joints in the front tarsi of *any* of his specimens, for (being all males) they could only have had four. Thus, if I am right in my premises—*viz.* that M. Dert's insect was correctly determined (which, judging from the description of *Colotes rubripes*, and its exact locality and habits, I believe to be the case)—it appears pretty evident that M. Duval had only males to work from (for, otherwise, *how could he have overlooked the wonderful differences of palpi?*), and that therefore, in order to gain them admission into *Colotes*, he must, in the first place, have merely *imagined* the anterior feet of some of his examples to be pentamerous, and must, secondly, have altogether *ignored* the marvellous dilatation of the *penultimate* joint of their maxillary palpi!

Be this, however, as it may, it will be sufficient to state that the present insect differs, in its structural details, from *Colotes* (judging from the diagnosis of that genus as given in the 'Entomographien'), first and foremost, in the immense development of the maxillary palpi of the males. Thus, whilst in *Colotes* the first and third joints are (according to Erichson) small, in *Antidipnis* the first only is small, the third being in the male sex enormous, and even in the female scarcely shorter than the second. Then, the fourth (according to the same author) is, in both sexes, strongly hatchet-shaped, whereas in the present genus it is securiform in neither, being in the males immensely enlarged (like the penultimate one) and *subquadrate* (with the apex spongiose), and in the females not much thicker than the one before it, but elongated and strictly *fusiform*. Moreover, the very great difference in the entire length of the maxillary palpi in the two sexes (they being twice as long in the males as they are in the females) should be especially noticed. These wonderful sexual differences of the palpi (so anomalous in the *Melyridæ*) will be more than sufficient, even of themselves, to establish *Antidipnis* as a new and interesting genus; nevertheless minor characters, likewise, are not wanting. Thus, the basal joint of its antennæ is apparently less thickened, and the second one shorter, than is the case in *Colotes*. In *Colotes*, too, Erichson states that the first and second joints of the feet are of equal length, whereas in *Antidipnis* the basal one (in both sexes, and in all the feet) is longer than the second.

Although the *specific* characters have been accurately described by M. Duval, I subjoin the following diagnosis, as it is just within the range of possibility that M. Dert's insect may, after all, have been wrongly identified, and that so his species and mine (which are certainly the same) may be new. In that case, I would propose for it the trivial name of *palpalis*; but, as already stated, I regard such a contingency as most improbable. I would therefore record it thus:—

*Antidipnis rubripes.*

*Ebæus rubripes*, Perris, ined.

*Colotes rubripes*, Jacq.-Duv., Ann. de la Soc. Ent. de France (2ième série), x. 707 (1852).

*A. piceo-niger nitidulus*, ore, antennis pedibusque rufo-testaceis; capite prothoraceque minute (oculo armato) punctulatis et densissime subtilissimeque alutaceis; elytris densius et rugose punctatis et pube depressa albida parce irroratis. Long. corp. lin.  $\frac{7}{8}$ –1.

*Habitat* in stercore arido humano, a meipso prope urbem Ulyssiponensem, mense Julio A.D. 1858, sat copiose repertus.